

Be Ready Family Program

The Huntsville-Madison County Emergency Management Agency today announced a new program aimed at preparing families in the area in case of emergencies. The program, called "Be Ready Family," helps to prepare residents for emergencies that could impact basic services.

EMA spokesperson Paige Soehren said that the program is meant to help families prepare for a variety of emergencies.

"This program is unique among any other disaster preparedness program we and other organizations have done in the past because it's interactive and multimedia," said Soehren.

"There are websites. There's a six-minute DVD that you can watch with your families. It's all aimed at getting families talking about being prepared."

Soehren said the program includes a checklist and questionnaire that can be completed and returned to the EMA with an enclosed envelope. Those who return the forms will receive a "Be Ready" sticker to display at their home as well as a coupon for a free pizza.

Madison Mayor Paul Finley encouraged all families to be ready and participate in the program - including his.

"It is important at this timeframe and in this area that we be ready," said Finley.

"We're going to take this seriously. We will do it together collectively as a family."

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle said that families should make this a top priority.

"This is something that we face every day," said Battle. "Being ready for everything from swine flu to flash floods to snowstorms."

The "Be Ready Family" program packets will be available from a limited number of locations including across Madison County.

More information on the "Be Ready Family" program can be found at www.madisoncountyma.com.